

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 RSR-01 /104 W

----- 071137

R 150822 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7802

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MASS, KS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ROK

1. KOREAN PRESS HAS FEATURE PROMINENTLY PRESS STORIES REGARDING DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS' REPORTED COMMENTS TO VISITING JAPANESE BUSINESS EXECUTIVE GROUP ON POSSIBLE JAPANESE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ROK.

2. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS WAS SAID TO FAVOR JAPAN PROVIDING \$100 MILLION ANNUALLY IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN " SOFT" ITEMS SUCH AS TRUCKS, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND HELICOPTERS.

3. IN ONLY EDITORIAL REACTION TO DATE, CHUNGANG ILBO STRONGLY TAKES ISSUE WITH ANY SUGGESTION THAT US SHOULD SHIFT ITS DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES TO JAPAN. EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT US SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT " AT THE BOTTOM OF KOREANS' CONSCIOUSNESS STRONG SUSPICION OF JAPAN IS STILL FLOWING DEEP." EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT US SHOULD ABANDON " THE IDEA OF SHIFTING THE DEFENSE OF KOREA TO JAPAN." AT SAME TIME EDITORIAL NOTES THAT US SHOULD DO ITS BEST TO ASSIST IN MODERNIZATION OF KOREA'S ARMED

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FORCES TO FOSTER KOREA'S DEFENSE POWER.

4. PRESS REPORTS ON STATEMENT BY DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS HAVE ALSO CAUSED REACTION AMONG SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL FIGURES HERE, SEVERAL OF WHOM HAVE TAKEN OCCASION TO RAISE SUBJECT INFORMALLY WITH US EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERN. HABIB

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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